April 20, 2012

Honorable Julius Genachowski Chairman Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW Washington, D.C. 20554

#### Dear Chairman Genachowski:

The Alaska Congressional Delegation is writing in regard to the petition for waiver filed by Windy City Cellular on April 3. Our concern in this matter pertains to the impact on the people of Adak and the Bering Sea fishing fleet. Windy City Cellular has been providing a valuable telecommunications service to the community of Adak and the fishing fleet. We are concerned that if the company is unable to continue its operation, the impact on the residents and the fishing fleet will be detrimental.

Adak is at the far end of the Aleutian Chain. It is 1,197 miles from Anchorage. In comparison, that is the distance from the FCC's Washington DC office to its Resident Agent Office in Houston, Texas. Adak is arguably the most remote community in the United States. Therefore, as you can imagine, Adak's dependence on telecommunications is enormous. The risk of losing wireless telecommunications services presents a crisis and jeopardizes an integral part of an industry that supplies the United States with fifty percent of its seafood.

As we understand it, Windy City Cellular has indicated that it has the financial resources, after the reduction in its Universal Service Fund revenues, to continue operating for only a couple of weeks. Since Windy City's waiver was noticed on April 9, a 45-day comment period has begun to be followed by an additional 45 days allowed under commission rules for a response. We will be monitoring this timeframe very closely.

Given the serious implications that Windy City Cellular faces, we urge you to act as quickly as possible in rendering a decision on this petition. In the case that Windy City Cellular ceases operation, the negative impact on the people of Adak and the fishing fleet in the Bering Sea will be most severe.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff. Please contact Andrea Sanders in Senator Begich's office at 202-224-3004, Jeremy Price in Senator Murkowski's office at 202-224-6665, and Jason Suslavich in Congressman Young's office at 202-225-5765 for further details. Thank you in advance for your prompt response.

Sincerely,

Senator Mark Begich

Senator Lisa Murkowski

Congressman Don Young

CC: Commissioner Clyburn

Commissioner McDowell



### FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

July 24, 2012

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski United States Senate 709 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski:

Thank you for your letter supporting the waiver request filed by Windy City Cellular, LLC, regarding support from the Universal Service Fund. I appreciate your bringing this matter to my attention and have directed the Chief of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau to respond. I am pleased to provide the enclosed letter addressing your concerns.

If you have any additional questions or need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Julius Genachowski

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Enclosure



# Federal Communications Commission Washington, D.C. 20554

July 24, 2012

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Dear Senator Murkowski:

Thank you for your letter supporting the waiver request filed by Windy City Cellular, LLC, regarding support from the Universal Service Fund (USF). I understand your concern regarding the continuity of wireless telecommunications service in the remote areas of Alaska, like Adak. I am pleased to report that on June 12, 2012, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau granted Windy City interim relief, which provides \$40,000 per month of additional support, for at least three months and no more than six months or until the Bureau resolves the waiver request, whichever comes first.

In this first round of reform implementation, the Bureau is mindful that for some companies, the transition will be particularly difficult. We take the waiver process seriously, and will give all waiver requests very careful consideration.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ruth Milkman

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Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau



### FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

July 24, 2012

The Honorable Don Young U.S. House of Representatives 2314 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Young:

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Washington, D.C. 20510

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